


REMARKS

Consideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-29 are pending in the application subsequent to entry of the above amendments. No claims have been canceled. Claims 1, 3-10, 13, and 16-19 have been amended to remove multiple-multiple dependency language and to conform the claims to US practice conventions. Claims 20-29 have been added to claim certain embodiments that would have been deleted due to the amendments to remove multiple-multiple dependency. None of the amendments change the scope of the claims in any fashion, neither narrowing nor broadening the claims. The specification has been amended to indicate the history of the present application. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 101 *et. seq.* and respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims. However, should the Examiner have any further questions about the application, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (425) 455-5575 to resolve the matter. If any need for any fee in addition to that paid with this Preliminary Amendment is found, for any reason or at any point during the prosecution of this application, kindly consider this a petition therefore and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account 07-1897.

DATED this 9th day of January, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,
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